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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Steel Enterprise at Vitkovice: Physical Set-Up and
Workers/Morale, Working Conditions and Political
Training/Forced Labor Camp/Electric Power and Raw
Materials/Products/Six Diagrams of Layout
with Accompanying Explanations of Machinery

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Physical Set-Up/Workers

1.

"The enterprise at Vitkovice is situated in an area 1200 x 1100 meters enclosed by a wooden fence 150 cm high.

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There are about 7000 workers in this enterprise (on 3 January, of this number, 1800 are women. The brigadiers have worked in this enterprise too, but do not know their exact number. The prisoners (forced laborers) were employed on the most dangerous working places. There is a forced labor camp near the enterprise, at the depot for iron ore. In this camp were 500 prisoners. A large number of these prisoners worked in the camp, but I do not know exactly how many.

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Personnel

2.

"There were no Soviet employees in this factory. (Prior to April 1953.) The enterprise was guarded by members of the workers militia, armed with pistols. There were still two gatekeepers in the gatekeeper's room.

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Morale/Working Conditions/Political Training

3.

"The working morale was very bad. The workers were disappointed with the wages and there was just one Sunday off in a month. Everybody was obliged to work three Sundays each month, otherwise he would receive a forced discount from his wages and would lose his supplementary rations. Most of the workers lived in the neighborhood of the factory. Most workers ate at home and those who were obliged to have meals in the workers' mess were infuriated with the bad quality of the food. Political schooling of employees took place three times a week. The first workers' meeting was at 6 am and lasted for two hours. The topic for political discussion was news of the world, especially the optimistic news from Communist countries, such as China, the USSR and the Eastern European Satellites, and from the Western countries like France and Italy with a powerful Communist minority. The discussion leaders were mostly professionals, employed for this purpose by the central management of the pits of Moravska Ostrava; only occasionally were

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actual enterprise managers obliged to conduct political training. Some articles from the Communist press were read, followed usually by discussions. In recent times [prior to April 1953], increased opposition on the part of the workers was registered toward the attitude of the political teachers. The workers believe that the present economic situation is not stable at all and that the worker would be ready to follow any anti-Communist leader.

Forced Labor Camp Near High Furnaces

4. "There are 500 political prisoners living in the forced labor camp which is situated near the high furnaces of the Vitkovice steel works. During their stay in the camp, the prisoners are under the guard of the security corps and have to follow the rules very strictly. While working in the enterprise, they are practically without any guard. Only the foremen and masters are responsible for their activities. The prisoners are given pretty bad food. They receive prisoner's wages, out of which they have to pay 25% for food and board in the forced labor camp. Fifty percent is given to their families and 25% to the prisoners in prisoner's money. For this money they can buy cigarettes and supplementary food. Nobody has succeeded in escaping from this camp. If somebody tries to escape and is caught by the guard, he is beaten by the guard and receives an additional one-year term in jail. In this camp there are only prisoners with long terms (5 to 30 years).

Electric Power and Raw Material

5. "The enterprise received electric power from the power plants of Vitkovice (10,000 V-strong). The iron ore was imported from Sweden and Kirvoj Rog [Krivoi Rog = Kirovskiy, USSR]. About 50% of the iron ore was imported from the USSR and 20% from Sweden. Thirty percent comes from inside Czechoslovakia. Coal was transported to the high furnaces from the coal mine Mladina near Moravská Ostrava. I do not know the ultimate destination of the products.

Products

6. "(a) cog-wheels ϕ 8 cm to ϕ 50 cm
(b) compressors
(c) spare parts for cranes
(d) axle-trees [possibly wheel axles?]
(e) turrets for tanks - [see description and map]
(f) spare parts for tanks
(g) wheels for railway trucks
(h) oxygen bombs
(i) vanadium steel
(j) rollers for iron factories
(k) pipelines 20 cm in diameter and 3 m long

"The five-year economic program was fulfilled 100%.

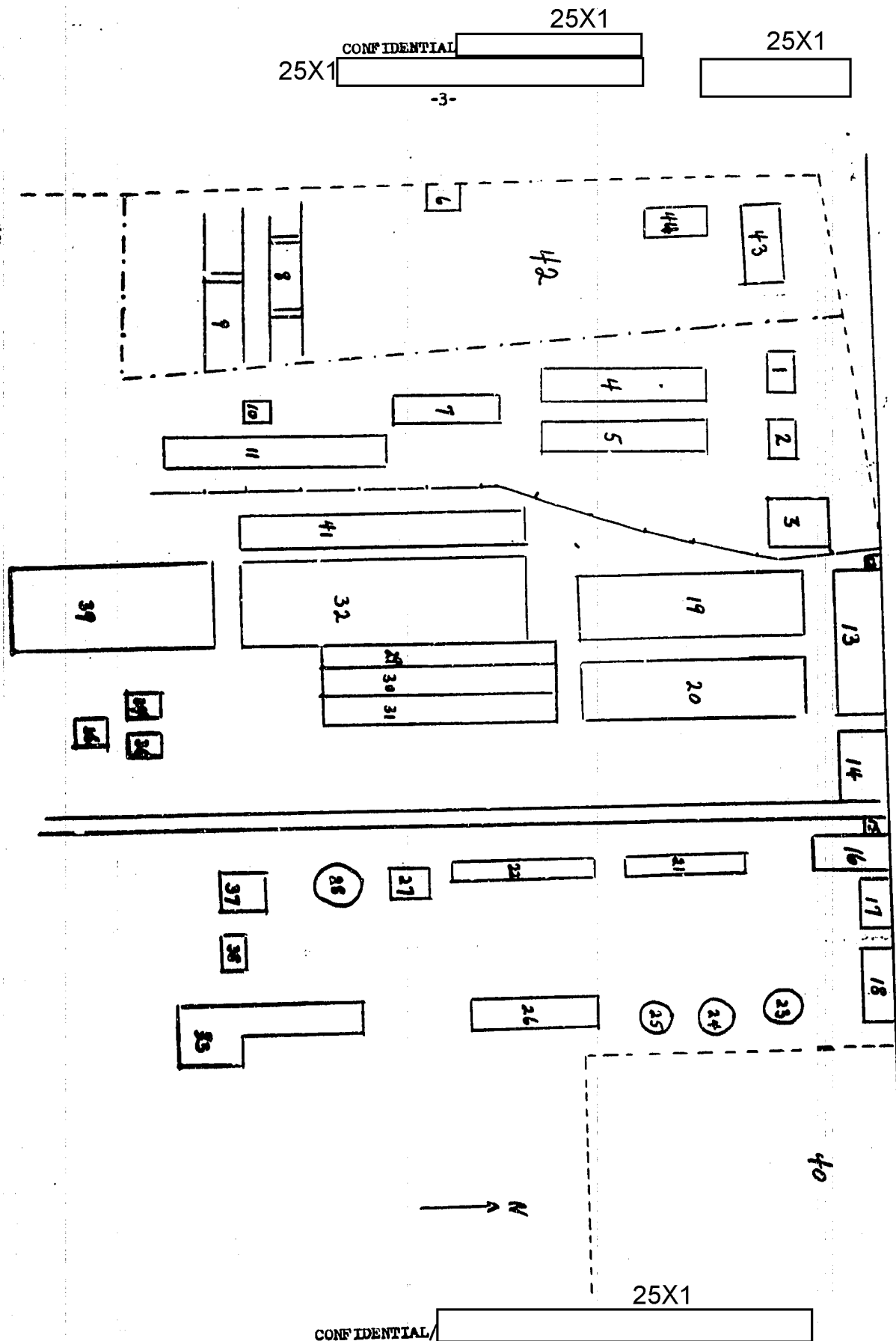
7. "High Furnaces at Vitkovice"

- (a) Sketch of Layout of High Furnaces at Vitkovice:

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(b) Explanation to Sketch of Layout of High Furnaces at Vitkovice:

1. The depot for moulds for the modelling department
2. The depot for moulds for the modelling department
3. Oxygen department equipped with new Swiss machines; the department was built up in the summer of 1952; dimensions: 15 x 79 meters.
4. Small machine workshop: 20 lathes, 15 milling machines, 3 revolver-lathes, 6 grinding machines, 3 cranes, 6 small gas furnaces, 1 mechanical hammer, 1 electric furnace. In this building vidium knives are produced (perhaps vanadium steel knives) for the lathes. The building dimensions are 100 x 30 x 15 meters.
5. Modelling department (100 x 30 x 15 m)
6. Department for unloading of trucks carrying iron ore. The ore is unloaded on to small cars which transport the ore to the top of the high furnaces. The dimensions of the building are 20 x 20 x 35 m.
7. Building where pipes 25 cm in diameter and 30 cm long are bent for the water pipelines. The bending of the pipes is done by hand. There are also 3 gas furnaces here. The dimensions of the building are 50 x 20 x 10 m.
8. Two railway cranes. Below the cranes is the depot for iron ore, coke and lime.
9. Magnetic railway cranes. Below the cranes is the depot for the old iron for the high furnaces.
10. Underground depot for oil and gasoline for the Vitkovice high furnaces.
11. Central workshop for tools for the locksmiths and electrical engineers. The dimensions of this building are 40 x 20 x 12 m.
12. Gatekeeper's room
13. Offices
14. Factory hospital
15. Gatekeeper's room
16. Depot for iron and copper. Its dimensions are 20 x 86 m.
17. Garages (4 buses, 9 Tatra 111 trucks)
18. Pumping station (water for high furnaces), 6 pumps with electrical engine (5000 V). Part of the building is a compressor room for the high furnaces.
19. Small foundry, where cog-wheels, spare parts for the central heating, small pipelines (15-20 mm in diameter) and different spare parts for machines are cast. The foundry is equipped with 4 gas furnaces. Its dimensions are 150 x 50 x 20 m.
20. Mechanical workshop: 50 lathes, 10 planing [planers?] benches, 7 shaping machines, pneumatic hammers, oxygen electrical welding, 8 milling machines, 10 drilling machines, 4 grinding machines. The workshop produces spare parts for bridges, compressors, turrets for tanks, and different kinds of wheel-axes. The dimensions of the workshop are 150 x 40 x 25 m.
21. Offices, workers council, planing [planning?] department.
22. Offices, workers council, planing [planning?] department.
23. High furnace No 1
24. High furnace No 4
25. High furnace No 5
26. Coke-kiln, 15 coke-furnaces
27. Place for electrical cleaning of gas
28. Gas-tank 10 m in diameter, 20 m high
29. Tool-makers' and locksmiths' workshop
30. Clouthing workshop (kalirna) equipped with five gas furnaces [possibly kaliena? (heat treatment)].
31. Cog department. The workshop was equipped with 2 big completely automatic machines for the production of cogged-wheels, 10 semi-automatic machines for cogged wheels, 6 lathes, 2 cranes. The dimensions of the building are 100 x 25 x 25 m.
32. Blacksmith workshop: 1 press, 2 furnaces. The workshop produces wheels for railway trucks as well as oxygen cylinders. The dimensions for the workshops are 180 x 100 x 300 m.
33. Material for the machinery section: dimensions: 120 x 60 x 25 m.

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34. Mills for the slag
- 35-36. Mills for the slag
37. Compressors for the gas furnaces (2 compressors), 30 x 30 x 25 m
38. Workshop for the production of vanadium steel, 2 gas-furnaces, 40 x 20 x 15 m
39. Production of copper by a chemical process: 5 big basins, 10 x 7 m. The dimensions of the building are 200 x 60 x 40 x 30 m
40. Coal mine 'Hlubina', producing coal for the coke-kiln
41. Foundry (3 furnaces)
42. Depot for iron ore
43. Garages
44. Forced labor camp, about 8 barracks, behind the barbed wire fence. 500 political prisoners are living there.

8. New Steel Works at Vitkovice, Enterprise No 47

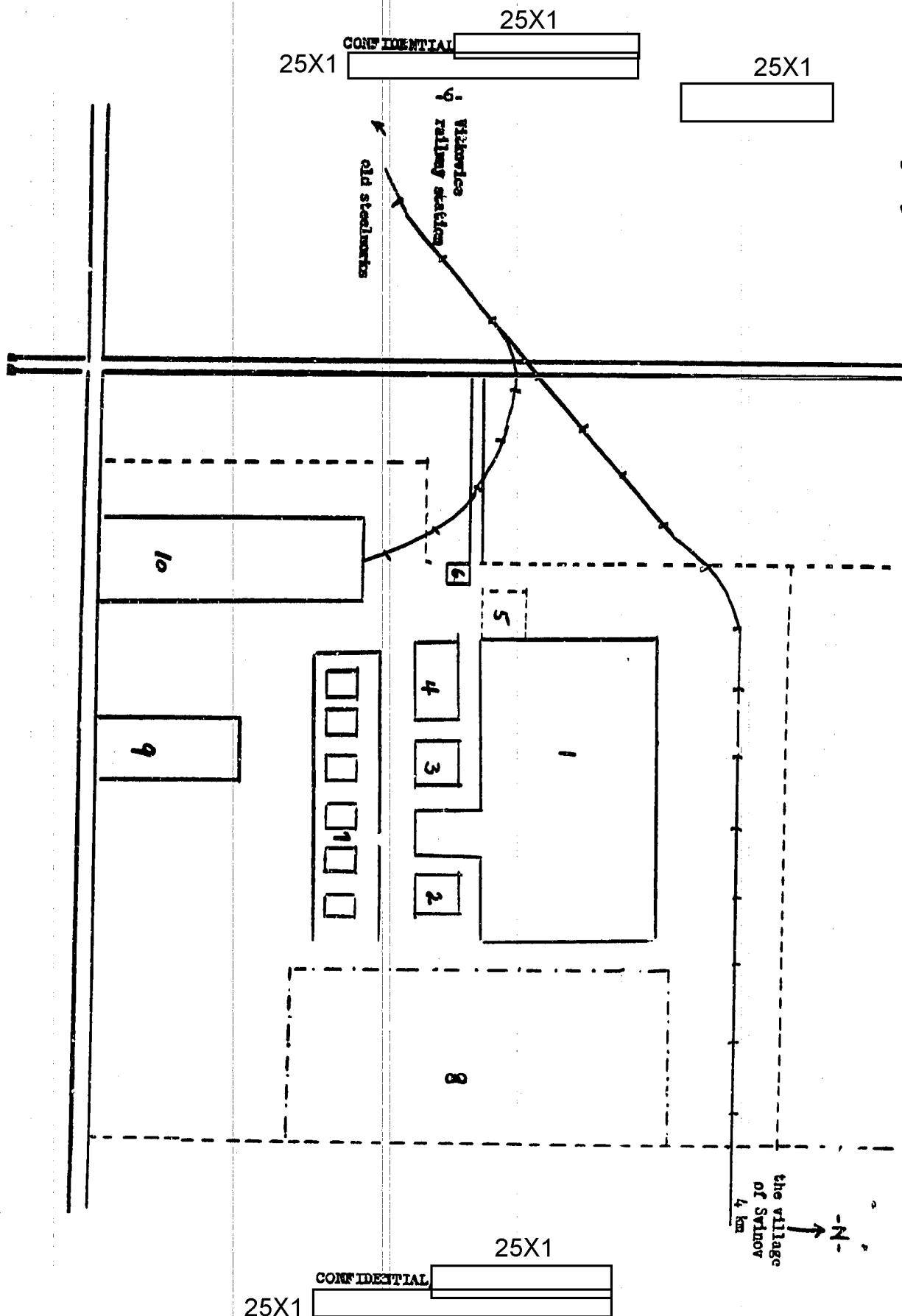
(a) Sketch of Layout of New Steel Works at Vitkovice:

[Sketch on page -6-7]

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(b) Explanation to Sketch of Layout of New Steel Works at Vitkovice:

Rolling Mills at Vitkovice

1. Rolling workshops: 200 x 400 x 35 meters
2. Electrical centrale No 2: 15 x 15 x 20 m
3. Electrical centrale No 1: 15 x 15 x 20 m
4. Toolmakers workshops for electrical and locksmith departments: 30 x 10 x 15 m
5. New rolling machinery equipment; completed in the beginning of 1953:
30 x 25 x 35 m
6. Gatekeeper's room
7. Foundry equipped with 8 Martin-furnaces; production capacity for 1 furnace
is small ingots per shift; dimensions: 300 x 190 x 40 m
8. Depot for iron for foundry: 600 x 300 m
9. Welding section: 80 x 30 x 20 m
10. Engine shed for the Vitkovice national enterprise: 70 x 30 x 10 m

(c) "The enterprise is situated in an area 1200 x 700 meters. It is fenced partly by a brick wall and partly by a wire fence, which is 180 cm high. Six thousand workers are employed there, working on three shifts. Two thousand of the employees are women. The workers militia guards the enterprise at night. The enterprise is supplied by electrical power from the power plants of Vitkovice (5000 V).

"Pig iron is received by the enterprise from the high furnaces. Part of the products goes to the other enterprises for further processing. The factory is producing also structural iron, iron plates 1 - 50 mm thick, wire up to 20 mm in diameter, springs, blades and spare parts for cars.

"The Five-year plan is being fulfilled 100%. In the guardkeeper's room are two guardkeepers.

9. Rolling Workshops of the New Steel Works at Vitkovice (Building No 1)

(a) Sketch of Rolling Workshops (Building No 1)

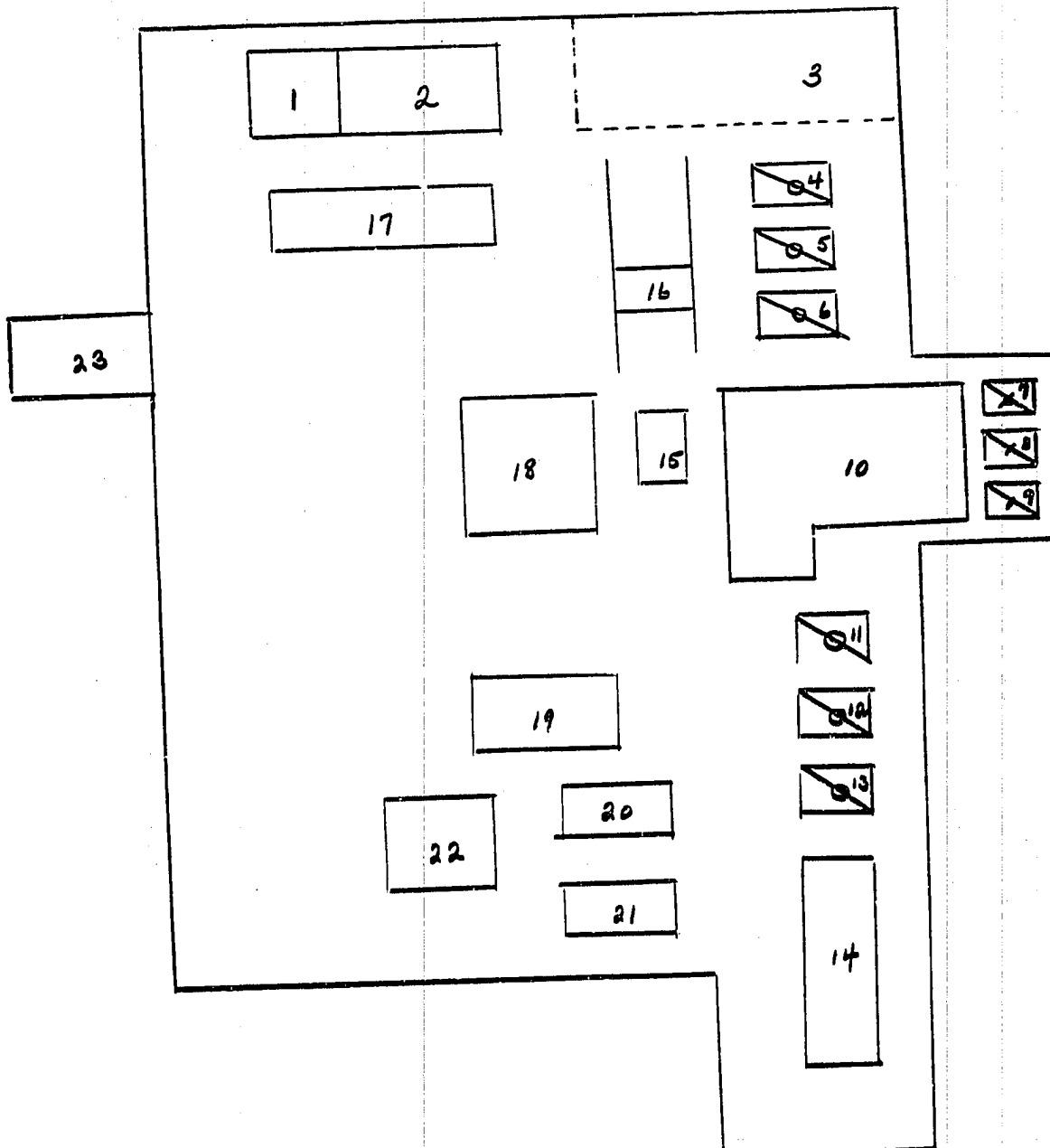
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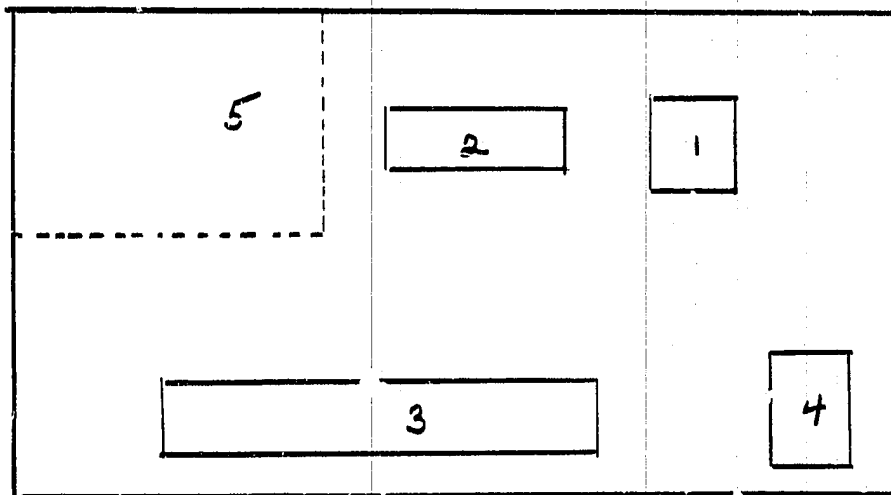
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(b) Explanation to Sketch of Rolling Workshops (Building No 1)

1. Blade production layout; equipped with 2 German machines for the rolling of the material, 1 press for blades, and 3 grinding machines
2. Clouding department (kaliraa) equipped with 4 furnaces and 5 clouding tanks.
[Probably heat treatment and tempering tanks or salt water tanks.]
3. Depot for rail and other iron [products].
- 4-6. Gas furnaces for small ingots
- 7-9. Furnaces for big ingots
10. Rolling wheels for structural iron [Described as 'profile' iron by source]
- 11-13. Gas furnaces for small ingots
14. Layout for production of armour plates, equipped with a new Swiss machine which is rolling armour plates up to 4 cm in size.
15. Machinery workshops for production of wire
16. Facility for transporting ingots
17. Layout for cutting of structural iron and rails
18. 5 machines for production of wire
19. Layout for production of raw material for springs
- 20-21. Layout for production of iron armour plates up to 2 m in width
22. Location of scissors for the iron armour plates
23. Depot for locksmith and electrical utensils.

10. Welding Workshops for the New Steel Works at Vitkovice

(a) Sketch of the Welding Workshops for the New Steel Works at Vitkovice:



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(b) Explanation to Sketch of Welding Workshops of the New Steel Works

1. Depot for welding utensils
2. Apprentice workshops; 35 apprentices working per shift
3. Location of 30 electrical welding machines and 20 gas welding machines
4. Offices for the welding section
5. Where welding of big spare parts is done.

Old Steel Works at Vitkovice

11. "The old steel works at Vitkovice are situated in an area, the dimensions of which are 900 x 300 m. The area is fenced in partly by a wooden, partly by a brick wall, 160 cm high. There are 5000 employees, working on three shifts. Of this number 1100 are women. There are working brigadiers and prisoners in the enterprise.
12. "The enterprise receives electrical power from the power plants of Vitkovice (5000 V).
13. "The pig iron is transported from the high furnaces. Lime is received from the lime mines of Stramberk [Stramberk].
14. "The factory is producing wheels for railway trucks, barrels for guns up to 15 cm, turrets for tanks, iron armour plates for tanks, wheel-axles, spare parts for engines and different kinds of hard steel.
15. "About 50% of the products is exported to the USSR.
16. "The 5-years economic program is fulfilled 100%.
17. "In the summer of 1952, the factory was declared a prohibited area and a strategic place from a military point of view.
18. "Working morale is very bad. Only a small number of workers live in the factory barracks. Political schooling is not made regularly.
19. Sketch of Old Steel Works at Vitkovice:

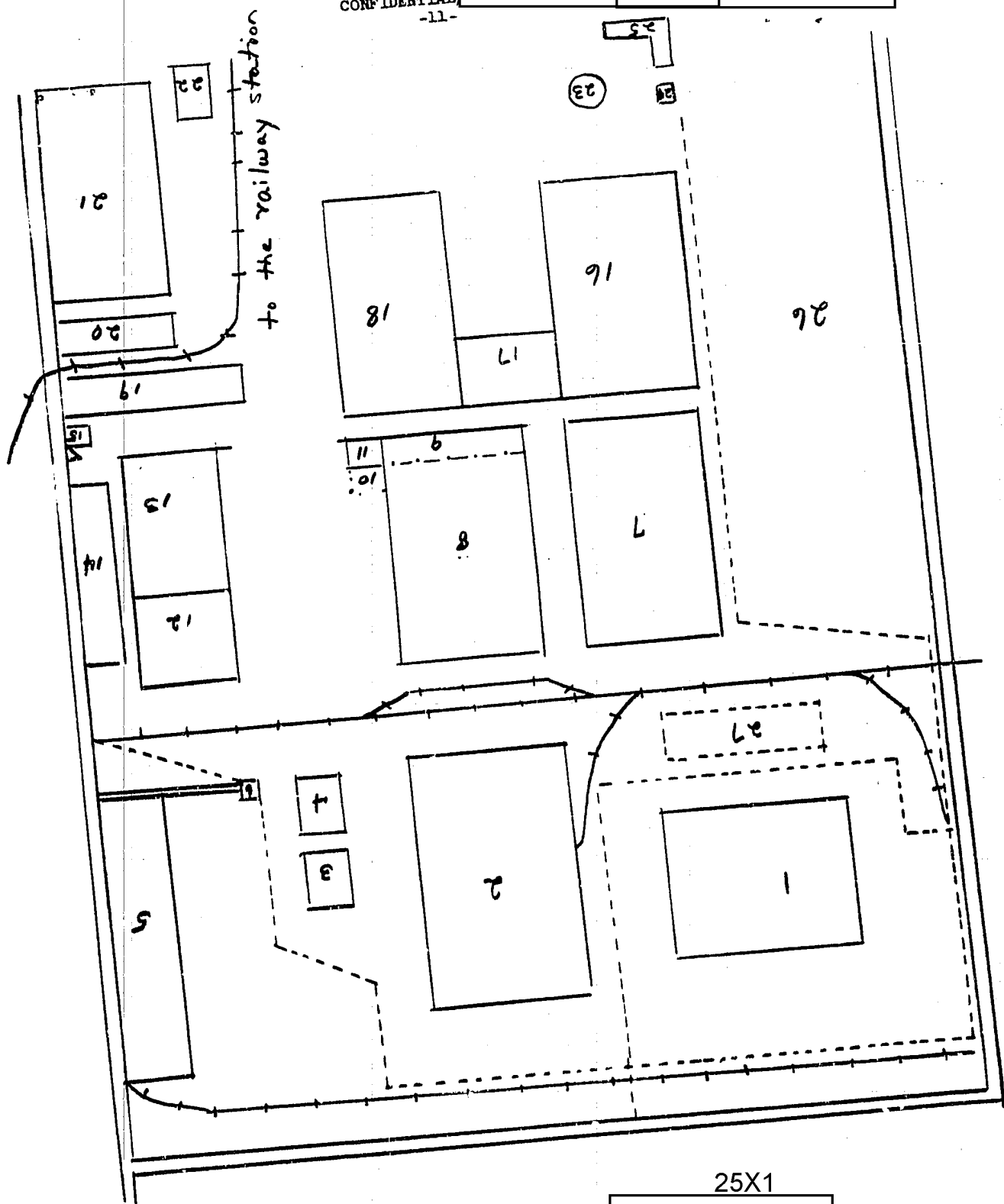
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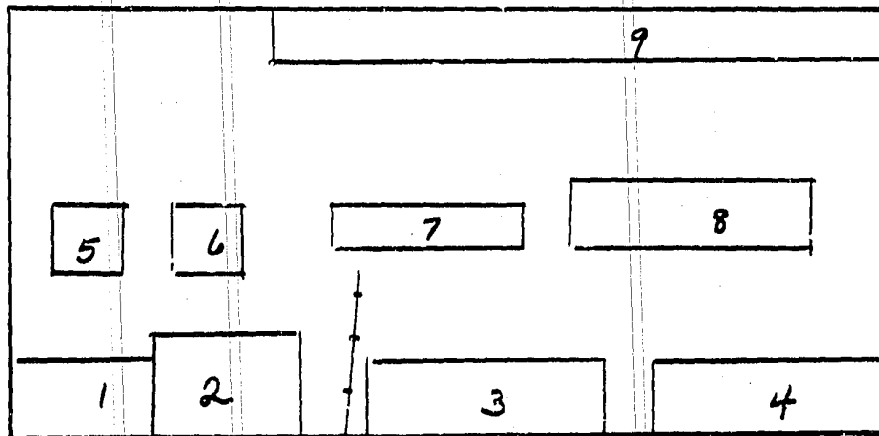
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(a) Explanation to Sketch of Old Steel Works at Vitkovice:

1. Sporting stadium of the Vitkovice Enterprise
2. Layout for production of spare parts for tanks, tank turrets, barrels for guns, spare parts for engines. The dimensions of the building are 400 x 150 x 20 m.
3. Toolmaker's workshop on the ground-floor: 50 x 10 m.
4. Ground-floor offices: 50 x 10 m.
5. Residence for the workers of the Vitkovice Iron Works
6. Gatekeeper's room
7. Ground-floor layout for production of fire-clay goods: 150 x 30 m
8. Iron works: 160 x 60 x 25 m x 30 m
9. Foundry
10. Laboratories for examining steel (built in the year 1951); equipped with X-ray. Dimensions: 20 x 20 x 12 m.
11. Transformer for electrical power: 25 x 15 x 35 m
12. Compressor: 200 x 20 x 15 m
13. Depot for iron armour plates.
14. Living quarters for workers
15. Gatekeeper's room
16. Facilities for repairing of railway truck wheels: 150 x 30 x 25 m.
17. Clouthing workshops (kalirna): 30 x 50 x 25 [kaliena (heat treatment)]
18. Blacksmith workshops: 180 x 40 x 30 m
19. Offices, locksmith workshop: 10 x 10 x 10 m
20. 'Moravskoslezska armaturka': on ground floor: 30 x 10 m
21. Living quarters for workers
22. Vitkovice railway station
23. gas tank: 10 m in diameter, 15 m high
24. Gatekeeper's room
25. Gas factory, to distribute gas from the high furnaces
26. Workers' colony
27. Open-air depot for old German tanks which are broken down and used as raw material.

20. 'Upravna' (Adjuncting Department)

(n) Sketch of 'Upravna' (Adjunctment Workshops of the old steel works)



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(b) Explanation to sketch of 'Upravna'

1. Facilities for electro-adjusting (2 lathes, 2 planing benches, 1 crane, 2 sewing mills)
2. Facilities for iron armour plates production and examining of the steel. (2 planing benches, 10 grinding machines); this department was built up during the year 1952.
3. Workshop equipped with 15 shaping machines and 3 milling machines.
4. Workshop equipped with 10 milling machines, 15 large drilling machines and 10 small drilling machines.
5. Velky Karusel (largest Karusel in Europe)
6. Karusel (built in the year 1951)
7. Depot for material for lathes and milling machines
8. Workshop equipped with lathes up to 20 m in length; the workshops produce mostly barrels for guns. There were 15 lathes in this workshop.
9. Workshop equipped with 35 lathes of all dimensions.

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Copy of a small military map of the
Vitkovice section Czechoslovakia